

of the St. Lawrence River. To the south we have the alluvial stretches of the counties bordering the south bank, and on the north we have the long strip stretching from Ottawa to Quebec of good cultivable land, between the Laurentian Mountains and the rivers. There lie the agricultural riches of the Province of Quebec, and it is necessary for the preservation of the richness of that piece of land that the rivers and streams in it should be kept at a constant flow throughout the whole season. It is necessary that the people should have a constant supply of good wholesome water the whole season through for themselves and their live stock. We have the natural conditions to give it to them, if we are only sensible in the conservation of those conditions. Take the southern bank of the St. Lawrence. While there is a broad plain of almost dead level land alongside that river in that valley which is suitable to agricultural work, but immediately to the south of that plain we have the mountainous regions of the eastern townships, the Adirondacks, and further east the Maine mountains extending into Canada. If we preserve the forests in that mountainous country, we have all the conditions necessary to supply an abundant, constant source of water to the plains between them and the river. Therefore, I venture to say for the Province of Quebec agriculture that it is absolutely necessary that the hillsides and mountain regions near the American frontier should be carefully preserved in forests and in blocks of forest land, so that the sources of the streams which flow into the St. Lawrence from the south, will be maintained as a reservoir for the water supply of that country, so that we may be able to utilize the blocks of forest lands on those mountains and hills to the best advantage of the people who own them, and of the country at large. This, if done under proper forestry conditions, will continue indefinitely the lumbering industry and the cutting of pulpwood in these regions in addition to benefitting the agricultural conditions below.

Again on the northern side of the St. Lawrence we have the strip of cultivable land between the Laurentians and the river. But back of it in the Laurentian Country we have a large area of land not particularly favorable or suitable to agriculture. It is rough, broken, hilly, and, with not very rich soil in most cases. If we can keep that district as a forest reserve, and preserve the great bulk of forest land in these hills, we have an assurance that the streams which come from it and break through the hills from the northern country, will be kept at an even flow of water, and will supply that strip of cultivable land between the Laurentians and the river with abundant water for the agricultural well being of that country.

You, gentlemen of Montreal, are dependent upon the maintaining of the water level of the St. Lawrence for your commerce. The depth of water in the channel is a measure of the advantages